

1 August 2019

Sackers announces promotions for 2019

Sacker & Partners LLP (Sackers), the UK's leading specialist law firm for pensions and retirement savings, has today promoted Joanna Smith, Tom Jackman and Ferdy Lovett to the partnership. In addition, Katy Harries and Adeline Chapman have been promoted to associate director, and Kirsty Pake and Andrew Worthington to senior associate.

The promotions take effect today, 1 August 2019, and take the number of partners to 30 and other lawyers to 29.

Announcing the promotions, Ian Pittaway, senior partner, said: "These promotions, from all levels of the firm, are thoroughly deserved. They reflect an excellent year at Sackers, with lots of high-quality work for existing clients and a number of significant new trustee appointments. We recognise that our success depends on the outstanding lawyers who work here and we will continue to promote from within and recruit new talent to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of all our clients."

Joanna Smith is an experienced pensions lawyer, advising employer and trustee clients in a variety of sectors on all aspects of pensions law. She supports a number of trustee clients on the full range of "business as usual" issues, such as pensions tax, member benefit questions, compliance with new legislation and drafting scheme documentation. Recent project work has included advice on managing employer debts, liability management exercises and benefit design changes. Joanna has a particular interest in pension scheme governance and sits on the Society of Pension Professionals' Legislation Committee.

Tom Jackman has over ten years' experience advising on a wide range of pensions issues. Much of his recent work has been project-based, including corporate transactions, buy-ins and buy-outs and insolvency/restructuring situations. He also advises on covenant support arrangements such as guarantees, escrow arrangements, surety bonds, letters of credit and asset-backed contribution structures.

Ferdy Lovett acts for clients from a wide range of industries, advising both employers and trustees on their DB and DC arrangements. He has a particular interest in workplace pension reforms and follows auto-enrolment law and policy as it develops. Recent DC work has focused on the master trust space. He is also closely involved with the implementation of the IORP II pensions directive and the possible impact of Brexit on pension schemes through his role on the international committee of the Association of Pension Lawyers.

Katy Harries is a general pensions lawyer who advises trustees and employers on a wide range of DB and DC issues, including mergers, closures, GDPR and transfer exercises. Recent DC work includes advising on changes to retirement options, master trust authorisation and DC chair statements. She is an active participant in industry bodies including as a committee member of the South London local group of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association.

Adeline Chapman is an experienced pensions lawyer who provides legal support to trustees, scheme managers and employers on a full range of issues, including DB scheme reorganisations, DC scheme governance and benefit options, buy-ins and buy-outs, and bulk transfers. One ongoing focus of her work has been advising trustees on their role in relation to DB transfer requests and how to prevent pension scams.

Kirsty Pake advises trustee and employer clients on all aspects of pensions law. Recent projects include the creation of a new DB scheme, a discontinuance project for complicated legacy DC arrangements and an enhanced transfer value exercise. Kirsty has wide-ranging experience of scheme administration issues and also takes a keen interest in DB to DC transfers.

Andrew Worthington advises on a broad spectrum of pensions matters. These range from large projects, such as liability management exercises and the pensions aspects of corporate insolvencies or restructurings, to member related queries and contractual negotiations. His recent work has included assisting clients with data protection related matters, at-retirement projects and GMP equalisation.

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Notes to Editors:

Sacker & Partners LLP (Sackers) is a top tier commercial law firm specialising in advising pension scheme trustees, employers, providers and corporate investors on all aspects of their pension arrangements.

Widely viewed as leaders in the field, Sackers advises more of the UK's top 200 pension funds than any other law firm. Sackers is consistently ranked in the top tier for pensions by both leading UK legal directories (Chambers UK and the Legal 500) and has been for over twenty years.

Based in London, Sackers provides support to trustee boards, sponsoring employers, providers and Government bodies across a range of areas, including day to day scheme management, funding and investment, projects, risk and litigation.

Sackers is an active member of the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association and The Association of Pensions Lawyers and is technical legal expert partner to the Pensions Management Institute and Pension Chair. Sackers also works closely with TPAS, the SPP, and the Pensions Investment Academy.

Sackers was named Pensions Law Firm of the Year at the 2019 Pensions Age Awards.

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